

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 - 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method of analyzing resource placement, comprising ~~steps of:~~

identifying a plurality of candidate locations for placement of resources, wherein the resources comprise at least one of: information technology personnel and monetary investments to be made;

identifying a plurality of criteria with which a decision is to be made for the placement of the resources, wherein the criteria comprise at least one of: local information technology skills and competitor strength;

defining at least one objective measurement for each of the identified criteria, wherein the definition comprises at least one factor to assess in determining how well that criterion is met and measurement guidelines specifying, for each of a plurality of numeric values, when to assign that numeric value when assessing that criterion;

selecting, for each of a plurality of specified weights that may be used in computations for reflecting business objectives of a company for which the decision is to be made and each of the criteria, a weight for weighting computations using that criteria with that business objective;

creating a product profile that specifies a value for each ~~values for first selected ones of~~ the identified criteria, wherein the specified values indicate importance to the company of that criterion;

creating a geography profile for each of the identified candidate locations, [[where]] wherein each of the geography ~~profile~~ profiles specifies a location-specific value for each ~~values~~

20 ~~for second selected ones~~ of the identified criteria, wherein the location-specific value for each of
21 the criteria is determined using each of the defined at least one objective measurement for that
22 criterion to assess the candidate location for which the geography profile was created; [[and]]

23 using the values specified in the product profile, the location-specific values specified in
24 the geography profiles, and the weights to compute ~~one or more~~ a location-specific resource
25 placement ~~scores~~ score for each of the candidate locations, further comprising:

26 for each of the geography profiles, computing a gap value for each of the criteria
27 by subtracting the location-specific value specified for that criterion in the geography profile from
28 the value specified for that criterion in the product profile;

29 for each of the specified business objectives and each of the criteria, applying the
30 weight selected for weighting computations using that criteria with that business objective to
31 weight the gap value computed for that criterion in each of the geography profiles if that gap
32 value is a positive numeric value, and assigning a zero value for that weighted gap value
33 otherwise;

34 computing a sum, for each of the specified business objectives and each of the
35 geography profiles, of each of the weighted gap values for that specified business objective in that
36 geography profile;

37 normalizing each of the sums by dividing the sum by a count of the criteria; and

38 using the normalized sum for each of the geography profiles as the computed
39 location-specific resource placement score for the candidate location for which that geography
40 profile was created;

41 selecting a particular one of the candidate locations using the computed location-specific

42 resource placement scores; and

43 placing the resources in the selected particular one of the candidate locations.

Claims 6 - 12 (canceled)

1 Claim 13 (currently amended): A computer program product for analyzing resource placement,
2 the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and
3 comprising computer-readable program code ~~[[means]]~~ for ~~carrying out steps of:~~

4 identifying a plurality of candidate locations for placement of resources, wherein the
5 resources comprise at least one of: information technology personnel and monetary investments
6 to be made;

7 identifying a plurality of criteria with which a decision is to be made for the placement of
8 the resources, wherein the criteria comprise at least one of: local information technology skills
9 and competitor strength;

10 defining at least one objective measurement for each of the identified criteria, wherein the
11 definition comprises at least one factor to assess in determining how well that criterion is met and
12 measurement guidelines specifying, for each of a plurality of numeric values, when to assign that
13 numeric value when assessing that criterion;

14 selecting, for each of a plurality of specified ~~weights that may be used in computations for~~
15 ~~reflecting~~ business objectives of a company for which the decision is to be made and each of the
16 criteria, a weight for weighting computations using that criteria with that business objective;

17 creating a product profile that specifies a value for each ~~values for first selected ones of~~

the identified criteria, wherein the specified values indicate importance to the company of that criterion;

creating a geography profile for each of the identified candidate locations, [[where]]
wherein each of the geography ~~profile~~ profiles specifies a location-specific value for each values
for ~~second selected ones~~ of the identified criteria, wherein the location-specific value for each of
the criteria is determined using each of the defined at least one objective measurement for that
criterion to assess the candidate location for which the geography profile was created; [[and]]

using the values specified in the product profile, the location-specific values specified in
the geography profiles, and the weights to compute ~~one or more~~ a location-specific resource
placement ~~scores~~ score for each of the candidate locations, further comprising:

for each of the geography profiles, computing a gap value for each of the criteria
by subtracting the location-specific value specified for that criterion in the geography profile from
the value specified for that criterion in the product profile;

for each of the specified business objectives and each of the criteria, applying the
weight selected for weighting computations using that criteria with that business objective to
weight the gap value computed for that criterion in each of the geography profiles if that gap
value is a positive numeric value, and assigning a zero value for that weighted gap value
otherwise;

computing a sum, for each of the specified business objectives and each of the
geography profiles, of each of the weighted gap values for that specified business objective in that
geography profile;

normalizing each of the sums by dividing the sum by a count of the criteria; and

40 using the normalized sum for each of the geography profiles as the computed
41 location-specific resource placement score for the candidate location for which that geography
42 profile was created;
43 selecting a particular one of the candidate locations using the computed location-specific
44 resource placement scores; and
45 placing the resources in the selected particular one of the candidate locations.

Claims 14 - 16 (canceled)

1 Claim 17 (new): A system for analyzing resource placement, comprising:
2 a computer comprising a processor; and
3 instructions that execute, using the processor, to implement functions comprising:
4 identifying a plurality of candidate locations for placement of resources, wherein
5 the resources comprise at least one of: information technology personnel and monetary
6 investments to be made;
7 identifying a plurality of criteria with which a decision is to be made for the
8 placement of the resources, wherein the criteria comprise at least one of: local information
9 technology skills and competitor strength;
10 defining at least one objective measurement for each of the identified criteria,
11 wherein the definition comprises at least one factor to assess in determining how well that
12 criterion is met and measurement guidelines specifying, for each of a plurality of numeric values,
13 when to assign that numeric value when assessing that criterion;

14 selecting, for each of a plurality of specified business objectives of a company for
15 which the decision is to be made and each of the criteria, a weight for weighting computations
16 using that criteria with that business objective;

17 creating a product profile that specifies a value for each of the identified criteria,
18 wherein the specified values indicate importance to the company of that criterion;

19 creating a geography profile for each of the identified candidate locations, wherein
20 each of the geography profiles specifies a location-specific value for each of the identified criteria,
21 wherein the location-specific value for each of the criteria is determined using each of the defined
22 at least one objective measurement for that criterion to assess the candidate location for which the
23 geography profile was created;

24 using the values specified in the product profile, the location-specific values
25 specified in the geography profiles, and the weights to compute a location-specific resource
26 placement score for each of the candidate locations, further comprising:

27 for each of the geography profiles, computing a gap value for each of the
28 criteria by subtracting the location-specific value specified for that criterion in the geography
29 profile from the value specified for that criterion in the product profile;

30 for each of the specified business objectives and each of the criteria,
31 applying the weight selected for weighting computations using that criteria with that business
32 objective to weight the gap value computed for that criterion in each of the geography profiles if
33 that gap value is a positive numeric value, and assigning a zero value for that weighted gap value
34 otherwise;

35 computing a sum, for each of the specified business objectives and each of

the geography profiles, of each of the weighted gap values for that specified business objective in that geography profile;

normalizing each of the sums by dividing the sum by a count of the criteria;

and

using the normalized sum for each of the geography profiles as the computed location-specific resource placement score for the candidate location for which that geography profile was created;

selecting a particular one of the candidate locations using the computed location-specific resource placement scores; and

placing the resources in the selected particular one of the candidate locations.